

FD 176

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25X1 SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	
TOPIC	VP Unit in Prenzlau.		
EVALUATION	<input type="checkbox"/> 25X1X	PLACE OBTAINED	<input type="checkbox"/> 25X1A
DATE OF CONTENT	9 July to 25 August 1953		
DATE OBTAINED	<input type="checkbox"/> 25X1	DATE PREPARED	6 October 1953
REFERENCES			
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			

SOURCE

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1. From 12 to 23 August 1953, a total of 480 to 500 men was discharged from the VP offices in Prenzlau at a daily rate of between 40 and 50. They made up only part of the VP Verband, and only about 25 percent of the total strength. Most of them were deemed unreliable or were completing their third year of active service. They were marched by groups of 10 to 15 men, each commanded by an officer to receive documentation at the district registration administrations. They turned in their uniforms, partly to their units and partly to the district registration administrations. A number of the numerous applications for discharge filed had not been complied with. Since these VPs refused to do any duty from 10 to 23 July, they created a terrible confusion. About 100 officers and enlisted men were excluded from the Volkspolizei during a big roll call to remedy the discharge psychosis. 1
2. Units committed in the Berlin area from 9 July to 4 August 1953 included the A Command Pinnow, which numbered about 1,300 men, the 2d A Command Prenzlau, which numbered about 1,700 men, and the 3d A Command Droegeheide, which numbered about 1,000 men. The billeting areas of the 2d A Command Prenzlau included Bornholmer Bruecke, Schoenholz and Lichtenberg-Koenigsfelde/Ost. The trains of the 2d A Command bivouacked in the city park at Piesdorf. On 4 August 1953, the Prenzlau VP unit was relieved by the Prora VP unit. While the 3d A Command returned to its usual posts by rail the 1st and 2d Commands were trucked back. 2 During the commitment, 1,900 to 2,000 men were left behind at the Prenzlau post. By 5 August 1953, the date of the return of the task forces from Berlin, this number was reduced to about 900 men by discharges and reassessments. Many soldiers were subsequently reassigned to minor alert forces. 1
3. The following is a list of ration strength figures of the Prenzlau unit as of 25 August 1953:

Headquarters of the unit (division):	82 officers and 34 NCOs and enlisted men;
Soviet advisers	20 officers and 5 drivers;
Command School	8 officers and 58 NCOs and enlisted men;
Headquarters company	4 officers and 79 NCOs and enlisted men;

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Chemical defense platoon	:	1 officer and 25 NCOs and enlisted men;
Motor-vehicle supply unit	:	6 officers and 75 NCOs and enlisted men;
Hospital	:	80 NCOs and enlisted men;
Motor-vehicle maintenance unit	:	7 officers and 57 NCOs and enlisted men;
D-1 (signal battalion)	:	34 officers and 341 NCOs and enlisted men;
S-4 (division unit)	:	85 officers, NCOs and enlisted men;
S-5 (division unit)	:	200 officers, NCOs and enlisted men;
1st A Command Pinnow	:	1,400 to 1,500 officers, NCOs and enlisted men;
2d A Command Prenzlau	:	1774 officers, NCOs and enlisted men;
3d A Command Droegeheide	:	954 officers, NCOs and enlisted men;
B Command Droegeheide	:	1,170 officers, NCOs and enlisted men;
C Command Droegeheide	:	914 officers, NCOs and enlisted men.

The strength of the bakery company of the division, which moved to Torgelow, was unidentified. 1

4. The following is a list of ration strength figures of the 2d A Command (unit under Muenter), as of 25 August 1953:

Headquarters	:	45 officers, 29 NCOs enlisted men.
S-1	:	4 officers and 30 NCOs and enlisted men
S-2	:	5 officers and 45 NCOs and enlisted men
S-3	:	4 officers and 49 NCOs and enlisted men
S-5	:	1 officer and 21 NCOs and enlisted men
S-6	:	4 officers and 42 NCOs and enlisted men
S-7 (newly activated)	:	3 officers and 26 NCOs and enlisted men
Guard unit	:	3 officers and 75 NCOs and enlisted men
Detention room	:	18 NCOs and enlisted men
Medical point (dispensary)	:	12 NCOs and enlisted men
Band (newly activated)	:	2 officers and 15 NCOs and enlisted men
I Bn	:	34 officers and 367 NCOs and enlisted men
II Bn	:	34 officers and 316 NCOs and enlisted men

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III Bn

32 officers and 306 NCOs
and enlisted men.

The medical course and the supply course had disbanded.

5. From 19 to 24 August 1953, a command post exercise which involved about 600 men of all arms of the unit, was held in the Strasburg area and was directed by Lieutenant Colonel Riedel (fmu), chief of staff of Armeegruppe Nord. Problems were combined action of all arms during attack and defense. Minor exercises at battalion level were also held in the Torgelow area. 3

25X1A 1. [] Comment. In late May 1953, the actual strength of the Prenzlau division was assumed to be about 13,500 men. [] This report 25X1A indicates that the present strength slightly exceeds 7,000 men, which means a reduction by about 45 percent taking into account the strength of the engineer battalion and the bakery company not listed in the present report. The infantry regiments were substantially reduced, i.e. up to 50 percent, while the artillery regiment and the tank regiment were subjected to only limited reductions. It is believed that discharges were below 20 percent, and that the greater number were transfers and reassessments to other units. A previous report contained information on the beginning of reassigning measures of this type. [] 25X1A

25X1A 2. [] Comment. [] elements of the Prenzlau 25X1 division were committed in Berlin and were relieved by the Prora division. The return of, and departure from, the railroad station of Berlin-Magerviehhof of the 3d Inf Regt was covered by a previous transportation report. [] 25X1

25X1A 3. [] Comment. The information on the command post exercise in the Strasburg area probably is correct. Other training activities are believed soon to reach regimental level.

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